

**COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION**

1. (currently amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer obtained by free-radical polymerization of a monomer mixture consisting essentially of

- 80 to 20% by weight of hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl (meth)acrylate and, optionally, one or more compounds of the formula (A) or (B)

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with R¹ = H, C₁-C₆-alkyl,

R² = H, CH₃,

R³ = C₁-C₂₄-alkyl

or mixtures thereof

in the presence of

- 20 to 80% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and
- optionally 0 to 20% by weight of other polymerizable compounds (C), at least one other polymerizable monomer selected from acrylic and methacrylic acids are crotonic acid, mono(C₁-C₈)-alkyl maleates, maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, (meth)acrylonitrile, ethylenically unsaturated (di(C₁-C₂₂)-alkyl dicarboxylates, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids or sulfonic acid derivatives, acyclic N-vinylcarboxamides and N-vinyllactams.



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2. (original) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free-radical polymerization is an emulsion polymerization.

3. (previously amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein hydroxyethyl methacrylate is employed as hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl (meth)acrylate.

4. (previously amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (A) are selected from the group of methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

5. (previously amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (B) are selected from the group of C₃-C₂₄-vinyl esters.

6. (previously amended) A process for preparing water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers as claimed in claim 1 by free-radical polymerization in an aqueous or nonaqueous but water-miscible solvent or in mixed nonaqueous/aqueous solvents.

7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polymerization takes place in the presence of from 30 to 55% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol.

8. (previously amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in claim 1 as coating agent, binder and/or film-forming excipient.

9. (canceled)